The major in art history, theory, and criticism is designed both for students who desire a broadly-based education in the humanities and for those who plan to pursue a career in an art-related profession. In both cases, the foundation for study is proficiency in the languages of artistic expression. Through the study of art history, students learn to treat works of art as manifestations of human belief, thought, and experience in Western and non-Western societies from prehistory to the present day. Courses in criticism review the theoretical approaches which are used to understand artistic achievement. By combining art historical and critical study, the program promotes in the student an awareness of the cultural traditions which have shaped his or her intellectual outlook and provides a framework for informed judgment on the crucial issues of meaning and expression in contemporary society.

Majors are encouraged to take relevant courses in allied disciplines such as History, Communication, Anthropology, and Literature, and in such area programs as Classics and Italian Studies. In addition, students who plan to apply to graduate schools are strongly advised to develop proficiency in one or more foreign languages, as is dictated by their area of specialization.

**LOWER DIVISION**

**FOUNDATION LEVEL** (5 courses/20-22 units)

- VIS 20 Introduction to Art History
- VIS 22 Formations of Modern Art
- VIS 23* Information Technologies in Art History

*Choose one from:

- VIS 21A Introduction to the Art of the Americas of Africa and Oceania
- VIS 21B Introduction to Asian Art

*NOTE: Students should attempt to complete VIS 23 by the end of sophomore year or the first time it is offered after declaring as a junior or transferring into the program.

**UPPER DIVISION**

**GROUP I: REQUIRED COURSES** (2 courses/8 units)

The following two courses are required of all art history and criticism majors:

- VIS 111 Structure of Art
- VIS 112* Art Historical Methods

*NOTE: Majors should complete VIS 112 by the end of their junior year and are strongly advised to do so as soon as possible.

**GROUP II: DISTRIBUTION** (6 courses/32 units)

A. **European Pre-Modern: Ancient and Medieval**

- VIS 120A Greek Art
- VIS 120B Roman Art
- VIS 120C Late Antique Art
- VIS 121AN Art and Experience in the Middle Ages
- VIS 128A Topics in Pre-Modern Art History
- VIS 129A* Seminar in Pre-Modern Art History

B. **European Early Modern: Renaissance and Baroque**

- VIS 122AN Renaissance Art
- VIS 122CN Leonardo da Vinci in Context
- VIS 122D Michelangelo
- VIS 122F* Leonardo’s La Gioconda
- VIS 122GS+ The City in Italy
- VIS 123AN Between Spirit and Flesh: Northern Art of the Early Renaissance
- VIS 128B Topics in Early Modern Art History
- VIS 129B* Seminar in Early Modern Art History

C. **Modern and Contemporary**

- VIS 124BN Art and the Enlightenment
- VIS 124CN Nineteenth Century Art
- VIS 125A Twentieth Century Art
- VIS 125BN Contemporary Art
- VIS 125DN* Marcel Duchamp
- VIS 125F Latin American Film
- VIS 128C Topics in Modern Art History
- VIS 129C* Seminar in Modern Art History
- VIS 152D Identity Through Transnational Cinema
- VIS 158 Histories of Photography
- VIS 159 History of Art and Technology
NOTES: Students must take at least three upper-division seminars in addition to VIS 112. These three additional seminars may come from any area and be taken in fulfillment of the distribution requirements or as open electives.

Art history majors cannot enroll in more than one upper-division seminar without having completed Information Technologies in Art History (VIS 23) and Art Historical Methods (VIS 112).

In accordance with standard university policy, the department requires that students take 2/3 of the courses in their major at UCSD. The distribution requirement must be fulfilled with courses taken at UCSD. Courses taken abroad or at other US institutions do not count towards, and will not be substituted for, the six course distribution requirement.

+Courses labeled GS are Global Seminars, which are only offered during the summer.